

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to correct the identification of sequences, as required by the Examiner. The description of Figure 1 has also been amended to include a reference to SEQ ID NO:1. The Abstract has been amended, as required by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to include a generic description and capitalize the text of the trademark term. The applicants submit that the following U.S. patents also refer to this item: U.S. Patent Nos. 6,140,086; 6,582,932; 6,573,060 and 6,531,306.

The specification has been amended to include the attached Sequence Listing, to include SEQ ID NO:1 of Figure 1 as a single stranded molecule. The applicants note the double stranded molecule is disclosed. The attached paper and computer readable copies of the Sequence Listing are the same. No new matter has been added. A separate Statement to this effect is attached.

The Section 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 1-8 is obviated by the attached revised Sequence Listing and above amendment to the specification to include the same. Withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1-8 is requested.

The objection to the Declaration should be withdrawn as the same is not defective in including an additional benefit claim to the PCT application as a Section 120 benefit claim. The same may be helpful in the future in the event a continuation and/or divisional application were filed claiming benefit of the above-identified application and the PCT application. Moreover, such a claim for priority to a PCT application is helpful

in the event the application is amended during the PCT International Stage, prior to entering the U.S. national phase. The applicants submit that the Declaration is not defective for containing this additional information. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of the Declaration are requested.

The Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-8 is moot in view of the above amendments. The pending claims are submitted to be definite.

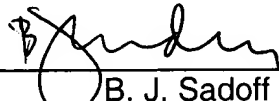
The Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 4 over Hamburger (American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 59(6):872-876 [12/1998]), the Section 102 rejection of Claims 4 and 5 over Hamburger et al (Molecular & Biochemical Parasitology 44(1):73-80 [1991]), the Section 103 rejection of claim 3 over Hamburger in view of MacCallum, and the Section 103 rejection of claims 6 to 8 over Ahern, are moot in view of the above amendments. The claims are submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

The claims are submitted to be patentable over the art and in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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